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By JK NARS, Date 6/14/78

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ARA/CCA -
SEN. FILE PARA
UNDER 5(B)(3)

DATE: November 7, 1962
TO: The Vice President
FROM: Colonel Burris
RE: Highlights - 10:00 a.m. - November 7

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Defense Department

Communist Bloc

Speeches on the occasion of the celebration of the October revolution have been comparatively moderate. The Berlin issue was brought up again, but no urgency or time schedule was mentioned.

Cuba

Orders have gone out to the Cuban armed forces removing the state of alert. Certain Reserves which were called up are to be released.

Laos

The Soviet airlift which has been conducted into Laos on almost a permanent basis has been abruptly halted. The reason is not clear. It could portend utilization of the aircraft elsewhere in the area; the beginning of a new phase of Communist activity with regard to Laos itself; or it may be a temporary device designed to halt on an apparently quid pro quo basis the American airlift into Laos through Air America.

Guatemala

The November 4 elections for the Mayor of Guatemala City resulted in a narrow victory for a man of extreme leftist leanings. The openly supported Communist candidate came in fourth. The results are disquieting, coming as they do immediately following the Cuban expose.

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Costa Rica

The Foreign Minister issued an unusually stern statement in which he stated that the United States should have taken a harder line in Cuba from the beginning and should have backed OAS action to remove Castro. On a more recent issue, he stated that the United States should have rejected the Soviet proposal to utilize the Red Cross in the proposed role. He expressed the belief that Castro must be wiped out at all costs because all of Latin America will suffer from the failure to do so.

Yugoslavia and Guinea

Tito and Toure have begun to pursue a new line on Castro, partly perhaps for reasons of manifesting personal power and leadership. The idea is to portray Castro more as a moderate man and essentially one whose views and activities could be related to those of today's neutrals. Contributing to this move appears to have been the partial, at least, abandonment of Castro by the Soviets in the face of strong U.S. opposition, as well as Castro's inability or unwillingness to re-establish relations with the U.S. In other words, he has to go somewhere and the neutralists are willing to accept him. This could also be a cleverly inspired Soviet scheme (as was U Thant's proposal) to portray Castro as a reasonable man, retain him in power and make him more acceptable to leaders of the western hemisphere. State has asked the U.S. Ambassador in Guinea to remind Toure about the real Castro and also of the fact that his own Ambassadors are fully aware of the facts. At the moment, no response to Tito is contemplated.